

DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:

Leanne Jasset, Vice Chairperson
Jason Brogan, Member
Cathy Cardinale, Health Director
Joan Conway, Administrative Assistant

The first order of business is to accept the minutes of September 16, 2015. We cannot do that because Leanne was not in attendance at that meeting and Dr. Scott is not present this evening. Open comments no one commenting.

54 Country Club Road

A variance request has been made for 54 Country Club Road. Joshua Borden of Borden Associates to explain the request for 3 variances but Cathy said they only need 2. Josh said the system failed in 2014. At the time just 2 elderly people lived in the residence. We did some perk tests and had difficulty finding 4ft of naturally occurring material. It seems that in the 1970's when the house was built the whole front area was blasted out and a lot of sand was brought in and they built a septic system. This at that time was doable. The only place that we could find 4ft of naturally material was up in this corner so we are asking for a variance from our existing well from 100 ft. to 86 ft. and side line set back from 10ft to 5 ½ ft. It is the only place on the lot that the septic system can go; this is all ledge and you come to close to the well. We have done our best to comply with title V but this is the only area for they system. So we ask for approval of 2 variances tonight. Joshua asked if there were any questions. Jason asked if there were any risks. Cathy said there were no risks it is completely allowed people do variances all the time in regards to distance. They have done the best they can this is the best scenario. Cathy said this is allowed for repair. It would not be allowed for new construction. Cathy said there are some restrictions that need to be followed before this is in compliance; deed restriction and notification to the homeowners etc. Cathy said she would put all the requirements in a letter along with certain documents you have to submit prior to getting the certificate of compliance. Joshua said he would make sure everything would be submitted. Leanne asked if Cathy was comfortable with the distance from the well to which Cathy replied yes. Cathy said she had no issues. That said Jason Brogan made a motion to approve the 2 variances the distance variance from the property line and the leaching field from the well. Leanne Jasset seconded the motion all in favor aye against none, variances granted. I have given each of you a copy of the homeowners guide to testing there wells. Joan has mailed a copy to each homeowner with a well in town.

Directors Report

Household hazardous waste day was a great success this year. Because of the inclement weather we reversed the traffic flow and we have decided to keep it that way. We had 202 cars. This was down from the year before. It seems every three years we get a large number of cars and then we have a couple of quiet years. Perk tests are witnessed by Cathy. We have had animal bites and investigation of food complaints. The nurse is doing a fabulous job she is very organized. We have the flu clinic Tuesday the 13th from 5-7p.m. at the middle school. Jessica has a half dozen nurses coming from her school and we have school nurses attending. We have been vaccinating town employees and the first responders' police and fire. We will check to see what is left for vaccine and will possibly do a clinic at the Council on Aging. We will see what is left for vaccine after the clinic and go from there.

New Restaurants

The taco restaurant in the square has not been in contact lately with us so I don't know what is going on there. I was at Victory Bar and Grille and took a walk through and I feel they have a good month to go. He is doing a beautiful job on this restaurant. Papa John's, I am waiting to hear from them, I think they are almost done. Brothers Roast Beef, in Riverdale has not been in contact for a while. Mocha Java has moved in with the Blue Bunny Book store. I don't know what plans to open in the original Mocha Java site.

Jim MacDonald, Selectman- Concussions

I am here with Dr. Rob Mendoza also a member of the concussion committee who has volunteered his time and knowledge as well as Dr. Jennifer Wacoliak, also an expert, who has given an overview to not only the committee but to youth sports. We were able to get, through Parks and Recreation, a pretty good attendance for the hour presentation she gave. People who had taken some kind of concussion awareness training were pretty shocked at the statistics and the data and the presentation. We wished more people had attended. We found it difficult with scheduling conflicts. You all have a copy of the report and I will touch upon a few items. The initial discussion of the committee was a by-law because the number of concussions in young people was pretty substantial not only in Massachusetts but throughout the country. After talking with council they advised not to go at this aggressively people will be resistant. Why not have an opportunity to talk to people and see what people are doing. We came to the recommendations; we didn't want them to be too burdensome on the sports team so we asked how we implement this. Head injuries are number 1; I don't think anyone would disagree with any of the statements listed about concussed kids. The only written policy detailing identification response and follow-up management of head injuries that might be incurred by any of the participants involved with their organization. This policy should include how an individual is identified to have a head injury and how the organization will respond etc. We don't want to cross the line of confidential information with children but are trying to figure out how and should we have teams and leagues that utilize the town fields be aware and monitor kids with head injuries. As you know in the high school there is a significant monitoring of kids with head injuries from athletics it is a very detailed follow-up between the school nurse, athletic trainer etc. So we need some help to put some policies together. I will let Dr. Rob Mendoza weigh in with his aspect on this. I did speak to Parks and Recreation and they are willing to start a program as soon as next July. And also some check-offs for the parents. I know that in high school participants in programs have a sign off slip for parents' permission; and Parks and Rec. are thinking of doing something similar.

Dr. Rob Mendoza

Dr. Mendoza stated he comes at this from a forensic practice legal casework. Often it is for people who have had head injuries on the civil side and coma work as well. We are seeing people who are on the far end of this spectrum. They haven't recovered from a concussion or they have head injury and as a result are suing somebody. I teach at Tufts Medical School as well and tell people I come from the paranoid stance as well I get that. I see the worst case scenarios' and to see if there is anything that can be done before getting to that point without stressing the system too much may be a reasonable thing to do. We were thinking of asking organizations that involve children especially children because they are at a much greater risk for a concussion than even an older adolescent. What happens if one of our kids gets involved in a head injury; do we have a plan in place. There are hundreds of ways to put a plan in place. CDC (Center for Disease Control) has a site with a section on parents and coaches and they can make sure of reasonable minimum level standard. Next is to track the number of occurrences' through the year in some basic format so you get an idea of what is the prevalence of these kinds of issues. It might be able to identify where there are problems in organizations that might not be doing a great job with these kinds of things Dedham High School is doing a very good job a templet perfect job. Everyone should be thinking about what's our plan during the school year. How many times this happens and then evaluate that data and see if there are any other things that we can do to increase the level of awareness. Or everything seems to be going well and everyone is doing a decent job. It seems reasonable that if someone is going to use town property that they have a minimum standard that is acceptable by the health committee. This is a public health issue and this is the place for it. We were very impressed with the lacrosse organization. They have a low incidence rate but are doing more technically than some of the organizations that have a higher incidence rate. The football folks took a lot of encouragement to be aware of some of these things and that is not acceptable they need to be at the top of the list. They need to be setting the standard. Lastly, offer help to organizations, Dr. Jennifer Wacoliak my colleague at Tufts who is a child pediatric psychologist sees this routinely every day.

It made a difference when she came and talked to the teams because they could ask questions. She showed how concussions manifest themselves. Even if it has nothing to do with how they are going to structure there program it had them interested. So when they see it they recognize it. So having Dr. Jennifer was better than just giving out handouts. Education and awareness is the key for not just the coaches but for the parents. Jim MacDonald said the training is free; the coaches have to take the courses. There are on-line courses as well I have done them myself. I was hearing from people that they had trouble getting a CPR class so I set up 2 CPR classes and attendance was poor. The only way we got the group to attend Dr. Jennifer's class the next time; was when Park and Recs said if we are going to give you a permit for a field you have to attend and guess what; they all showed up. If that is what we have to do, fine. As Rob said the Board of Health is a natural extension of the health of our kids. If you are playing for another league and are using our high school field and get injured you don't have to report it. I did not know this. Cathy said she believes there is no one it is reported to.

Dr. Mendoza added that an on-going issue in little league where a parent has right of over-ride and some kid is obviously concussed and parent says they are ok, that can't happen. If people are wondering if a child can go back in almost in and of itself at the college level, the professional level if there is a question that immediately says do something about it. You should not have a parent be able to put a kid back in a game that is ridiculous from the medical side.

Jim MacDonald said there was documentation on social media about a Dedham child with a concussion more than twice and it covers everything that Rob and Dr. Jen has told us about. A case book story; I think there is not enough education about concussions for parents. Dr. Rob said he spends a lot of time in court and somebody at some point will sue a town; it is already happening in other cities across the country. You will find one of my colleagues, but they get paid on the other side, saying soft tissue injury will not show up on an MRI. Typically you will find someone out there who will take the side of the kid and say yes the child is concussed they will sell their soul for a buck. If the town has something in place that says this is what we did we cannot stop bad outcome from happening but here is the process in place and a reasonable man will say that is sufficient it meets the medical standard of care; it meets the towns standard of care of how they use its grounds. Having nothing in place is a level of negligence that comes back to the town.

Cathy asked if there is any introductory information there is parents night PTO one of the biggest pieces is getting the information from DPH, Department of Public Health, they must have pamphlets or flyers. I feel some type of tracking should take place. The hardest group will be the league sports not school sports. These are all volunteer based sports. Jim MacDonald said all the teams were at the Park and Rec meeting and they heard what the thought process is. We know it will take time. Is the Board of Health willing to help us develop a templet like the schools have?

Cathy said asked if we build a templet and park and rec. gets it every time there is an injury whoever is involved in that sport has to fill it out and send it to our office, am I correct? Jim said either sends it as it happens or monthly I don't know yet. Cathy said the shorter the trail the better. I would say if the sport is using a field and telling them they need to follow this guideline the form should be filled out. I am concerned about the HIPA rules Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; we need to investigate whether we can go that deep. If we can't go that deep we can at least know that is was an 8 year old female at this sport that wacked there head and was taken to and final report is X. We could do a spread sheet showing parent notified. Jason said we could build a web-site where a coach could go on and fill it out submit it and have it go to whoever you want it to go to. Cathy said whoever it is going to they have to be identified to the parent filling it out. Again we are talking HIPA information being released and we want to make sure it is filled out and sent directly to our department to the public health nurse. Dr. Rob said our goal is to provide an opportunity for all sports and parents and coaches involved to have the adequate information on how to proceed with a head injury and second goal is that we want to track the success of being able to determine and learn how people are following through with these things and maybe third where clearly evident there was an opportunity to reach back to particular cases to assure that some follow-up was done. And that we were in no way attempting to be a provider but trying to track and assist parents in providing the best intervention possible for them to proceed. This is the start we will be able to study the data. We will work together to get something out to parents and take a look and see what happens.

With no more business to discuss Jason motioned to adjourn the meeting Leanne seconded all in favor aye opposed none. Leanne adjourned the meeting at 7:27p.m.

Leanne Jasset, Vice Chairperson